

*NTB. This was stoppt printing by government, when the printer had got to the end of p 24, and the publication was suppressed.*

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A N  
ESSAY  
AGAINST

The Transportation and Selling of Men to the  
Plantations of Forreigners;

WITH

Special regard to the Manufactories, and other Domestick  
Improvements of the Kingdom

OF

SCOTLAND,

Humbly offer'd

To the consideration of those in Authority.

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BY

A sincere Well-wisher to the Honour and  
Interest of his Country.

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Nehemiah 5. Chap. 5, 6, 7, 8. verses.

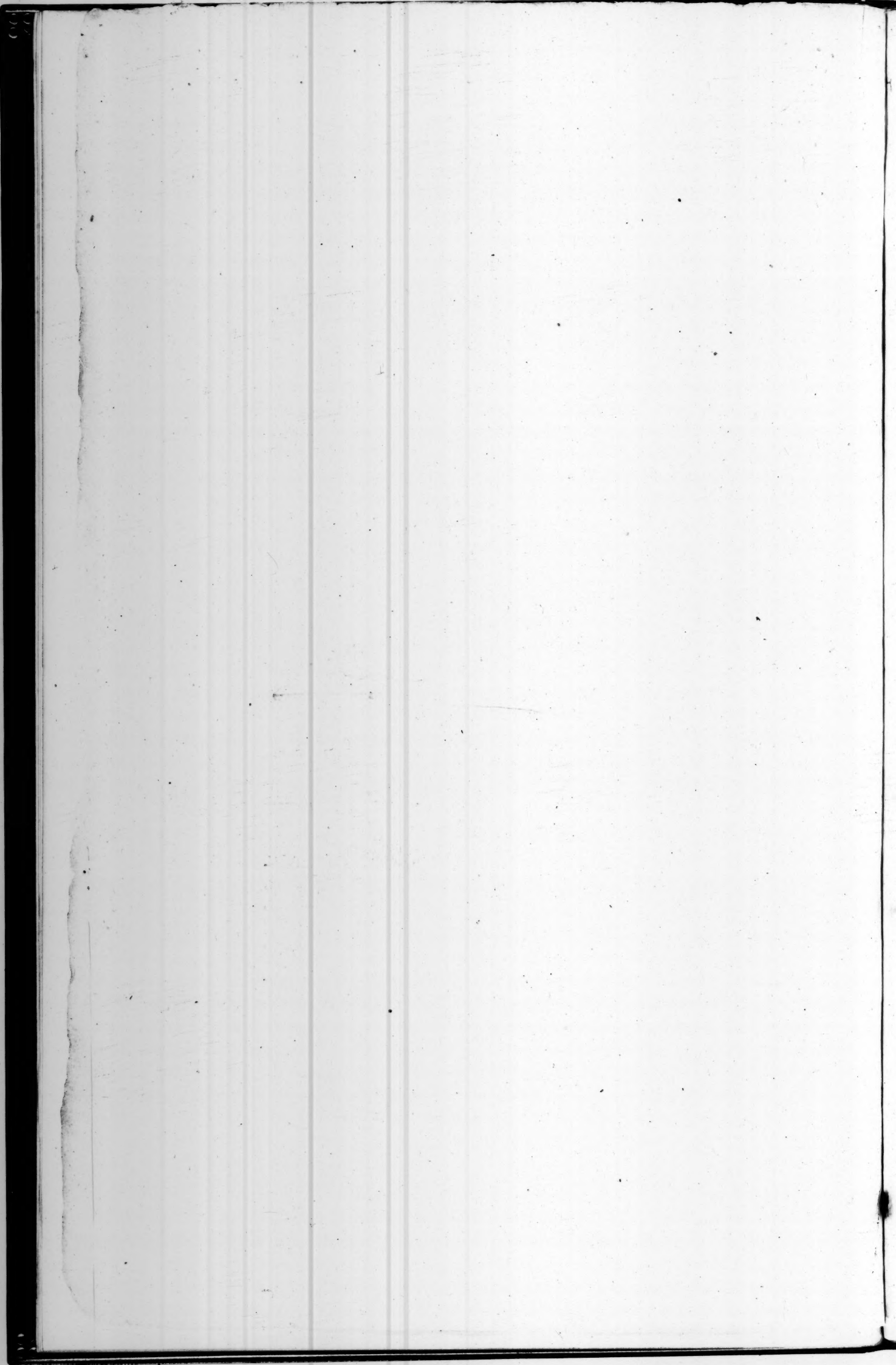
*Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our Brethren, our Children as their Children: And lo, we bring into bondage our Sons and our Daughters, to be servants, and some of our Daughters are brought into bondage already, neither is it in our power to redeem them----- And I was very angry when I heard their cry, and these words. Then I consulted with my self, and I rebuked the Nobles, and the Rulers, and said unto them, you exact usury, every one of his Brother.----- And will you even sell your Brethren? ----- Then held they their peace, and found nothing to answer.*

Read the whole Chapter.

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\* EDINBURGH,

Printed in the Year, M. DC. XCIX.



A N  
E S S A Y

Against

*The Transportation and selling of Men to  
the Plantations of Forreigners; with  
special regard to the Manufactories,  
and other Domestick Improvements  
of the Kingdom &c.*

**A**S the Wifest of Governments, Have in all ages esteemed the well-Peopling of a Nation to be one of the chief Blessings thereof, so they have always look'd upon the depopulating of a Country, as the undoubted fore-runner of Desolation and Misery, knowing very well that without great numbers of hands, neither Agriculture, Trade, Manufactories or any other Improvement whatsoever can possibly be carried on to any considerable degree.

'Twas the consideration of this that raised a Noble Emulation between the Legislators of the several Common-wealths of *Greece*, which of them should excell each other in framing such Rules of Government as might most effectually; not only encrease the numbers of their Inhabitants, but also employ them to the advantage of the State, in such manner, as that none of them might either be reduced to want at home, or forced to wander abroad for their Bread: And 'twas upon such Topicks as these, that those Noble *Græcian* Worthies fam'd in Story, have built the greatness, encreas'd the Riches, and establish'd the duration of their Cities for many ages: For confirmation of all which I refer to *Xenophon's* excellent Discourse upon improving the Revenue of the State of *Athens*, where, throughout the whole Treatise, he inculcates that admirable Maxim, *That the true wealth and greatness of a Nation consists in numbers of People well employed.*



These were likewise the Motives that induced the generous and wise *Romans* to enfranchise even those very Nations whom they had subdued by the force of their conquering Arms, to all the privileges of their City, when in its greatest Glory; and if they had not done so, they had neither been Wise nor Great, for when thereafter Corruption begun by degrees to creep into their Government, and that Usurpation and Tyranny had overturn'd the laudable Constitutions of the first Founders of their Greatness, by pursuing quite contrary measures, with relation to the Interest and Liberties of their Subjects, many of the remotest Provinces begun to revolt and shift for themselves, their Citizens were despirited and over-aw'd by Mercenary Bands at home, and the whole by a general defection became of course an easy conquest to a swarm of *Goths* and *Vandals*, who soon over-spread all *Italy*.

Nor need we look so far back into the Transactions of former Ages for instances of the different effects of a good and bad constitution, with respect to the Peopling and Dispeopling of a Nation, when scarce a year passes without some new Acts, Edicts, or Declarations, in some or other of our Neighbouring Kingdoms, States, Common-Wealths or free Cities, for naturalizing Strangers, instead of allowing their own Subjects to be carried away, as useless Members, to any Foreign Region, where they are to have no benefit by them: And was it not by reason of this naturalization alone, how is it conceivable that the *Hollanders* from a Poor, inconsiderable, distress'd People, supported chiefly by the politick Compassion of Queen *Elizabeth*, and possessing only a little quagmire (if in comparison I may so call it) should in a few years time become Rivals to the greatest Potentates in *Europe*, and so prodigiously powerful in the *East-Indies*, that all the Potentates in *Europe* jointly considered, cannot justly be reckon'd Rivals to them there? and this is chiefly owing to the excellence of that constitution in their Government, that their Rulers take care to contrive and find means for imploying all Stragglers whatsoever so advantageously, that not a Beggar is to be seen in all *Holland*.

Now on the other hand let us cast our Eyes on *Spain*, once the Terror of *Europe*, And if we but consider the narrowness of its Constitutions, what infinity of Restrictions, Prohibitions, Limitations and plaguey Inquisitions, not only Strangers, but even its own Natives, are subjected to, we shall soon perceive the natural and true Cause of the Declension of that powerful Monarchy: Whereas most certain it is, that if, in place of their damnable Courts of Inquisition, they had erected a Court for setting all their Idle *Don's* or rather *Drones* at work, and for naturalizing all Mankind; That Crown might, with the help of its *Indian Mines*, have long before now given Laws to the Universe.

And tho' the Ambitious Monarch of *France* has, for many years by-past, had all his Engineers at work, for laying the Foundation of an universal Empire, which he has been all this time grasping at, yet many wise Men are of Opinion, that he has not been so far mistaken in any of all those measures which he projected for that end, as in that of depopulating so great a part of his Dominions by the cruel persecution of many Thousands of his best and most industrious Protestant Subjects: But whatever may be in this, 'tis certain He never was willing they should either



either go, or be carried to the Dominions or Service of any other Foreign Prince or State; as appears by the many severe and strict Orders issued forth daily, for stopping and apprehending such of them as endeavour to make their escape.

'Tis true, There are some of the Northernmost Nations of *Europe*, so productive of Men, and so little addicted to improvements in Arts or Manufactories, that, now and then, they can very well spare some Fleeces of those Men to other Nations, who can better imploy them; yet even these too, are far from allowing the very meanest of their superfluous Men to be carried away, or employed by any Foreign power; except upon certain valuable considerations and conditions stipulated by publick Treaties with the several States to which they belong; engaging likewise that, in the meantime, they be not only honourably treated and pay'd as Auxiliaries, but be also at full freedom to return again to their own respective Countries at pleasure, or when call'd for, after the expiration of the time limited by Treaty as aforesaid.

Thus we see that tho' the Northern Crowns of *Sweden* and *Denmark*, most of the Princes of *Germany*, the *Swiss-Cantons* and others, have their Dominions often threatned with scarcity of Corn and Provisions, by reason of the Barrenness of their soil, and that tho' the Coldness of their Climates, and the want of subject-matter does not perhaps admit of any great Home-improvements in most of those places, yet they have found means to employ their Spare-men so advantageously during all the last War, that they are thereby considerably richer, and much more honoured and respected by their Neighbour-Kingdoms and States, than when the War first begun.

But that either of these, or any other free and independent Kingdom, State, or Commonwealth in the whole Christian World (excepting *Scotland* alone) have ever to this hour, suffered even the very meanest of their People (yea the worst of their Malefactors) to be carried away by Strangers, and sold as Slaves, under the specious name of Servants, to the Plantations of Forreigners, is a point that cannot be made appear, either from History, Tradition, or the practice and common experience of our own time.

Now, How it comes to pass that *Scotland* should be the only Christian Nation in the universe, that suffers it self to run the hazard of being dispeopled, especially after so disgraceful a manner; and that its Commons are the only free-born People in *Europe*, whose unhappy fate it is to fall under the lamentable predicament of being Slaves to Forreigners, is a Case worthy of our enquiry, yea such a Case that, upon due information of matter of Fact, 'tis not to be doubted but that these in Authority will (I hope) quickly put a stop to this intolerable growing Evil.

It is the great misfortune of *Scotland*, that some of its own unnatural brood (as being altogether unsuspected, because of their presum'd natural affection to the place of their Nativity) are made use of (whether designedly or by chance they know best) as Mercenary Tools to ensnare and basely enslave their own Fellow-free-born Subjects: For by this means it is, that several *English* Merchants and others, who formerly Traded and sent Ships to the Coast of *Africa*, for buying and carrying Slaves from thence to the several Plantations of *America*, have now of

late fal'n upon an easier way of being served much cheaper, better, and more expeditiously nearer home; And that by the following method.

They first take in some *Scots* Merchants, Factors or others Residenters in *London*, to be Part-owners in the Property of Ship and Cargo; then these New-Adventurers write to their Relations, Freinds, Acquaintances, Factors and Correspondents here, who upon the arrival of Ship and Commander, with credential Letters, and other necessities for catching the Prey, are like as many Spanial-Doggs to hunt and set the poor Birds, till they are once got within the Fowlers Net: Thus and by such like ways and means some few Thousands of Souls (as I am credibly inform'd, and doth partly consist with my own knowledge) have, within the compass of these two years last past, been carried out of this Kingdom, and sold at vast rates to some or other of the Plantations in *America*. And these Men-sellers finding the sweet of gain, by what means soever it come, have now five or six Ships in the River *Clyde*, and two Ships in the River *Forth* taking in Servants (as they call these poor deluded Wretches) and Provisions, for the Plantations of Forreigners; besides several other Ships that have sail'd very lately with the like Cargo's from *Aberdeen*, *Montrose*, and *Leith-road*, to the indelible stain and reproach, as well as unspeakable loss of the whole Kingdom.

But since there was never yet in the World any cause so bad (be it what it will) but that Money, Relation, and Interest could always find Advocates in plenty, to plead in its behalf, it is not to be supposed but that this Cause has its Champions too; And therefore to do both it and the adverse party fair play as near as I can, I shall impartially muster and state all the Arguments that ever I heard, or (as I think) can possibly be adduced in favour of this modern practice, and endeavour to obviate the fallacies of these Arguments in such manner, as that (I hope) he that runs may see the weak side and evil consequences of such pernicious practices; and then after all, I shall humbly offer some Reasons, why the carrying and selling of our Men to the Plantations of Forreigners ought not to be tolerated, under any pretence whatsoever.

*Arg. 1.* The first and cheif popular Argument is this: That these three years last past have been years of Famine in this Country, at least very few degrees remov'd from it, and this very year in all appearance as much as any of the former, Therefore they do good Service to the Country, who take these poor miserable Men away, who otherways must needs have starved for want of food at home.

*Ans.* To this it is Answered, 1. Negatively, that they neither take away the Lame, the Blind, the Crooked, the Maim'd, the Sickly or distemper'd in Body or Mind, no not any person whatsoever, that has but the least appearance of Hunger or Indisposition in his Countenance; so that those who in all probability are most likely to fall under the heavy visitation of Famine (if any should happen to be, which God forbid) are in a hopeful condition (or sooth) if they must depend for their relief from these Blessed Merchants of their Christian Bretheren. 2dly. It is Answered Positively, That those Men-Merchants take only Young, Healthy, Vigorous, Fresh-complexion'd Youths, and with their good will but Strong, Lusty, able Trades-men of all sorts, come to the Years of Discretion, tho' (God knows) they have little of it, in suffering



ing themselves to be thus miserably cajol'd, and barbarously cheated out of their Liberties: Now whether these and such as these are not capable to earn their own Bread, with profit to such as may employ them, either at home or in any other part of *Europe*, I leave the whole World to judge.

*Arg. 2.* O! But say the Pleaders on the behalf of this new practice, suppose these Trades-men and others may be very capable and willing to earn their bread at home, yet what must they do? tho' they are willing to work, they can have no Employment; And so are still forced either to Steal, Beg, or engage themselves thus to any that will undertake to find them Food and Rayment at any rate.

*Ansiv.* This indeed opens the gate to a very large field, and I shall therefore beg leave to dwell the longer upon it. *First.* The supposition is hardly supposable, that Men both capable and willing to work, should not find persons to employ them for their bare Maintainance; Thanks be to God, it is not come to that pass as yet, for as few or none of all those persons supposed to be thus reduced to necessity, and sold to the Plantations of Forreigners, have either Wives or Families to provide for, so they can the more easily make some honest shift or other for their own single persons; if capable, diligent, and well inclin'd (as the case still presupposes) without being reduced to such extremity, as is groundlessly (I hope) here suggested; and supposing even the very worst that can be supposed in this case, the bare Maintainance of such persons (which is all that's pretended by their Transportation) can be but very inconsiderable to such other persons of substance as may, and undoubtedly will, have occasion to employ them, when compared with the benefit of their labour, if they were rightly employ'd and well look'd after: Yea further, 'tis most certain that no Master of any Ship has ever to this hour carried away Servants (as they call those poor wretches) from this Kingdom to Forreign-Plantations, without carrying at the same time at least six Months Provisions along with them; which together with the product of their own labour (be it never so little) might undoubtedly maintain them at home for a much longer time than we can reasonably suppose a Dearth or Scarcity to continue. And even at this very time, I have good reason to believe, and hope it will be found true, that the pretended Scarcity of Corn and Provisions in this Kingdom, at least in most parts thereof, does not at all hold proportion with the extravagant dearthness of the prices, at which they are held by such as have Corn to sell, and take their advantage from the necessity they know People ly under, of buying from themselves at any rate, since none can be had from Abroad: And that those who thus exact extravagant prices for their Corn in time of any real or supposed Scarcity are liable to the heaviest Charge of Oppression, is manifest from many Texts of Scripture: *He that withholdeth Corn, the People shall curse him: But blessing shall be on the head of him that selleth it.* Prov. 11. 26. then as to the Rule of Selling, we have it positively given us by *Moses*: *If thou sell ought unto thy neighbour, or buyest ought off thy neighbour's hand, ye shall not oppress one another.* Lev. 25. 14. Here both *Moses* and *Solomon* do plainly intimat, that there may be as great oppression in Buying & Selling, especially of Corn, as in any other case whatsoever. And this is further and more particularly confirm'd by the Reasons which the Prophet giveth for denouncing



nouncing Woe against Israel; *Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the Land to fail, when will the New Moon be gone, that we may sell Corn? And the Sabbath, that we may set forth Wheat, making the Ephah small, and the Shkel great, and falsifying the ballance by deceit? That we may buy the poor for Silver, and the needy for a pair of Shoes; yea and sell the refuse of the Wheat,* Amos 8. ver. 4, 5, 6. Where it is observable, that the great Reason of the complaint against them was, because *they made the Ephah small, and the Shkel great.* That is, they lessen'd the Measure, and heighten'd the price. And then the Prophet expostulates ver. 8. *Shall not the Land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? &c.* And therefore how far it were to be wish'd that the prices of Corn might be in some measure regulated, and made adequat to the present circumstances of the Nation, I shall in all humble submission, refer to the Wisdom and consideration of those in whose power it is to do it. And I am the more encouraged to hope, that they will soon take cognisance of this matter, because (as I am informed) the Magistrates have already begun to regulate the excessive Prices of Wine, which I humbly conceive is a matter of far less concern to the Body of the People, especially to the poorer sort, to whose share it does not fall to taste a drop thereof, even in the best of years, tho' they must unavoidably have Bread in the very worst: Not, but that I think it highly reasonable, and very commendable, to regulate the Prices of Wine, yea and (as far as conveniently possible) of all other Foreign Goods whatsoever imported for consumption, especially such as are Ready-manufactured; yet still the regulating of the Prices of Corn, is that which more immediatly concerns the Poor at present, And why the price of Corn may not be regulated as well as that of Wine or any other Commodity, I know no reason, unless there be some truth in that ill-natur'd, and unmannerly one which I have heard some People suggest; namely, that this was a limb of *Hackerton's Cow*; meaning (I suppose) thereby that some of these persons who have the power of regulating those matters, have Corn of their own to sell: Yet, for my part, I cannot suffer my self to entertain such mean and narrow thoughts of any of these Honourable Persons, since they were advanced to so publick a Trust from the Opinion (no doubt) that was conceived of their Capacity and Merit; And we ought more reasonably to suppose, and hope, that upon so singular an occasion as this, they will approve themselves true Patriots, and worthy of the high Sphere in which they move, by giving good example to others, in lowering the Markets; which they may effectually do by exposing to publick Sale what Corn they can conveniently spare, at a moderate price; for indeed the nature of Mankind is such, that the generality of them is govern'd more by Example than Precept; For tho' by Precept we may be instructed, yet 'tis by example that we are perswaded: And therefore when ever we see that Men in publick places are also publick-spirited, then it is, and not till then, that we may confidently expect to become a flourishing and happy People: And for this *Nehemiah* gives us a noble example of self-denial, as well as a reproof to such as do otherwise in his 5th, Chap. 14. 15. ver. Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their Governour in the land of Judah, I and my Brethren have not eaten the Bread of the Governour: (That is, I have not exacted

exacted even the Fees or Perquisites that I might have exacted and belong'd to me as Governour.) *But the former Governours that has been before me, were chargeable unto the People, and had taken of them bread and Wine, besides forty shekels of silver; yea even their servants bare rule over the people: but so did not I, because of the fear of God.* And indeed this whole Chapter from the beginning is very full and clear upon the subject-matter of this Essay.

But 2. To come closer to the stress of the Argument, viz. *That the Transporting and selling of Men to the Plantations of Forreigners is a forc'd Putt, because they can have no Work or Employment at home &c.* It is such a presumptuous Allegation, that upon due consideration of the extent thereof, I believe the Government will never admit of it for a Reason, in any respect; because, if it be of any force at all (as far as I can understand it) it seems chiefly to quarrel the discretion, care and conduct of the Governours, and Magistrates of the several Corporations throughout the Kingdom; a chief part of whose study ought to be, the contriving of ways and means, for making the meanest Member of the Commonwealth useful, one way or other, more or less, in his own Sphere: And I am sure, neither the Magistrates, nor the common People can justly pretend, but that the native productions of *Scotland*, if well look'd after, are improveable to such a vast degree beyond their present estimation, as might profitably employ more than twenty times the number of hands, that the whole Kingdom can possibly spare out of it, upon any account whatsoever; For how many thousands of hands might be profitably and honourably employ'd about the Fishings of the *East, North, and West Coasts of Scotland*, and Islands thereunto belonging? Which to the great reproach of the Nation lyes (I may say) wholly neglected by the true Proprietors, while the *Dutch* have, by an allowed (tho' at random) computation, made more by that one branch of their Trade, in Fishing upon our Coasts, than all the Lands of *Scotland* are reckoned to be worth. Notwithstanding whereof, and that we know it very well; yet we very tamely suffer our selves to be still treated by them in this particular, like the very worst of Cuckholds, as if they lay with our Wives before our faces: And tho' the Supine neglect of such a blessing as those immense and inestimable Treasures of our Seas, the Fishings thereof, may at first view, seem to be no small reflection on the wisdom and discretion of our Nation in general; yet most certainly the Magistrates and chief Inhabitants of the several Burghs and other Sea-port Towns throughout the Kingdom, are much more immediatly and directly chargeable therewith; and their reproach is still the greater in this, that no Society or sett of People under the cope of Heaven, has, ever to this hour, had comparatively greater Immunities or Exemptions allowed them, either as to their Persons or Estates, than by the Laws of this Realm, and more especially by the 39th, Act of the 1st. Session of King Charles the 2d's. first Parliament are granted, for encouragement, to such Natives and Naturalized Forreigners as would engage themselves or their Stocks in any Fishery-Company of this Kingdom. And as this Trade (if duely prosecuted) would undoubtedly encrease the numbers of our Sea-men; enlarge our Shipping and Navigation; furnish the materials of a great native export; and be



a sure foundation of Trade and commerce, to the no small honour, Reputation and Interest of the undertakers thereof in particular, as well as of the whole Nation in general: So on the other hand, it must naturally and of course diminish the numbers of our Poor, without exposing them to such desperat courses as that of abandoning at once their Country, their Liberty, and indeed all that is valuable this side of time; by suffering themselves to be (as now they are) shamefully sold from hand to hand, like so many Brutes, to slave in the Plantations of Forreigners: And beside those vast numbers of People, that must actually be employ'd in the immediat exercise of the Fishing-Trade it self; (if heartily carried on) it is of such a diffusive nature, that even the very petty Manufactories that have a necessary dependance upon it, such as the beating, cleaning, and spinning of Hemp, making of all sorts of Hooks, Nets, Lines, Cordage, &c. might employ and maintain a great part of all the poor People in the Kingdom.

As for the other moreconsiderable Manufactories of the Nation, especially those of Woollen and Linnen, how far they are improveable beyond their present state, and might be made capable to employ and maintain many thousands of our Poor, under a well-regulated Constitution, will easily appear from the few following considerations. *1mo.* The *English* Government have, for the encouragement of their own Manufactories, strictly prohibited the carrying of any Wool from *England, Ireland, Wales, or Town of Berwick upon Tweed, into Scotland,* under very severe penalties, making it even Criminal. *2do.* They have again of late, laid such Additional Impositions on all manner of *Scots* Cloath, as in effect amounts to a total prohibition; whilst on the other hand, all mankind are not only tolerated to carry out of *Scotland* into Forreign parts, what quantities of Wool and Flax they please, (and *de facto* have of late carried out several thousand stone weight yearly without control) but do also import daily such vast quantities of all manner of Forreign Manufactures, as glut our Markets at home, to the absolute discouragement of our own Manufactories, which otherways wou'd (beyond all peradventure) in a very short time, attain to such perfection as would not only serve our selves at home; but wou'd also make a considerable Article in the ballance of our Forreign Trade; as shall, by and by, be made more plainly appear.

I must indeed confess, that to cramp and fetter Trade with innumerable Prohibitions, Limitations and Restrictions, is very disagreeable to those tender notions, which (according to my weak opinion) I have always entertain'd, of the intrest of Trade: Yet, on the other hand, Self-preservation, and the practice of *England* and *France*, with relation to the productions of this Kingdom, makes it even absolutely necessary for us, to endeavour (as much as we can) to beat them with their own Weapons; that is, to retort the same measures, with relation to the productions and Manufactories of those places, as they take with relation to ours, unless we resolve to give up the Cudgels for good and all.

'Tis true (I acknowledge) that to discharge the Exportation of Wool, without discharging likewise, the Importation of all Forreign Manufactures made of Wool, wou'd do little or nothing to the purpose, other than to gratify at our own expence, some People to whom we,

are



are but very little obliged; and might also seem even a hardship on the Proprietors and possessors of Lands, whose chief product is Wool: But why both the one, and the other, should not be discharged, *simul & semel*, I could never as yet hear so much as any pretended reason, other than that given by a certain publick Minister, not long ago, to a certain Committee, which was, *That it would offend and dis-oblige our Freinds in England*; And really how far that reason may justly weigh with any considering and dis-engaged person, I shall not take upon me to determin; but sure I am, from the proceedings of the *English* on all occasions, for several years past, they have shewed but very little regard to whatsoever might offend or disoblige their Freinds in *Scotland*: And (by the by) amongst the many other excellent qualifications and virtues necessary in all persons advanced to publick Trusts, I wish, Fortitude, Resolution and Courage were none of the least conspicuous; for it is very observable, that no sooner was *Joshua* appointed to succeed *Moses* in the Government, than that God did three several times (as it were in one breath) enjoin him to be *Courageous*. *Joshua* 1 Chap. 6, 7, 9. vers. And the consideration of this gives me ground of reflection upon a notable and very emphatick Character, which I have, not long ago, heard given of the late D. of L-----ale, *That tho' he himself took the liberty sometimes, of making the Bairns Greet; yet, at the peril of his Life and Fortune, he never would suffer any other to ding them.* 'Tis said, that some of his successors in office have sufficiently trac'd him in the first part of his Character; yet, by what I could ever hear in the general, few or none of them have, in the later. And I wish it were not anyways applicable in this place, what *Ajax* said of *Ulysses* for attempting to wear the Armour of *Achilles*.

*Sed neque Dulichius sub Achillis casside vertex  
Pondera tanta feret; -----Ovid.*

That is plainly, *I wish I cou'd see any one fill his Bonnet,* as to the later part of his Character.

But, whether even in reason of state (all things considered) our Friends in *England* ought to be more tender of offending us, than we of offending them, I shall refer that to be weighed and determin'd by such as shall happen to be alive, when-ever it shall please God, once more, to favour this abus'd Nation, with some such other providential and unexpected opportunity, to be free'd from the ill treatment of our neighbours as we had, not many years ago; And (even ill as we are stated at present, because of our having neglected that great opportunity) had the wisdom of our Nation thought fit, but in any of our late Sessions of Parliament, to have payed home our Freinds in *England* in their own Coin, that is, positively, under severe penalties, to discharge the exportation of our own Wool and Flax, and the importation of any of their Woollen Manufactures; 'tis more than probable that they'd quickly become better natur'd; as they did once heretofore upon the like occasion; and that we should not be, so much as now we are, tormented with the common and calamitous out-cry of an indefinit number of poor People, who are reduced to beggery chiefly (yea meerly some say) for want of some such encouraging Act in favour of our own Manufactories in general. And tho' this be a diffusive and general greivance over

over all, or, at least, most part of the Kingdom, especially the *North* and *West* parts thereof; yet I shall only give some conclusive instances from those more noted Manufactories that are in, near, or about *Edinburgh*, as being the most obvious to the view of every one, who has a mind to be satisfied of the Truth thereof; tho' indeed the case is too manifest to be doubted of by any.

1<sup>mo</sup>. The Woollen-Manufactory at *New-mills* is perhaps the completest Manufactory of that kind in *Europe*; or at least inferior to none, in this respect, that from the time they receive the Fleece rough off of the Sheeps back, till the time that they deliver their Cloath compleatly Manufactur'd and dress'd into the Merchants hands, there is not the least punctilio of the Manufacturing part, but what they have all done within themselves; which is more than, I hear, is done in any part of *England*: And sure I am they make as good broad Cloath of all sorts of colours as any Man in *Brittain* need wear. This Manufactory, within these two or three years last past, had fourty broad Looms all going at once; and of Weavers, Scrubblers, Birlers, Dyers, Shearmen, Pickers, Spinners &c. they had about 1600 persons at Work, all at the same time. Now, how it comes to pass that this Manufactory has, at this very time, but Nine (or at most Ten) of those fourty Looms a going, and but 300 persons, in the whole employ'd, in their service, and has hardly work enough for that same number, is a matter worthy of enquiry: For here you may see no less than about 1300 People set (I may say) a Begging all at one dafh.

2<sup>do</sup>. The Woollen-Manufactory set up some few years ago at *Muscleburgh*, by that industrious Gentleman Mr. *Robertson* of *Whitehouse* upon his own proper Stock, did employ, no longer since than about one year ago, 300 People in constant work; but at this very time he has not, nor can he well afford, work for half that number, tho' he has every thing needful done within himself, as in the other Manufactory at *New-mills*.

3<sup>io</sup>. The Stocking-Manufactory at *Paul's-Work* has of late arrived to that pitch of perfection that they'l undertake to match the very finest of any Woolsted-Stockings that are made in *England*, either as to Colour, Fineness, or Shape; and have all things needful done within themselves, as in the other Manufactories abovemention'd: They had last year a dozen of Looms all going at once, and of Weavers, Throwers, Dyers, Scourers, Pickers, Combers, Winders, Seamers, Spinners &c. They had about 160 persons at constant work; and are still resolved (as I am inform'd) to multiply the number, both of their Looms and Workmen, if duely encouraged: But as matters go now, they have not at this very time above 50 of all those people, any manner of way, employ'd, or in their service.

Now if you should ask any of the Proprietors, or Managers of either of those Manufactories, the reason of their going backward instead of going forward; they'l presently tell you, that Wool (which is the chief subject-matter and foundation of the whole) is grown so scarce and dear by reason of its exportation, that they cannot afford to buy it, and give their Work-people any reasonable allowance to maintain them, (while Corn and Provisions are so dear,) without a manifest hazard of

great



great loss to themselves; but more especially because their Manufactures must ly as a drugg upon their hands, by reason of the vast quantities of Forreign-Manufactures of the same kind, that are daily pour'd in upon the Nation, to the absolute discouragement of their Manufactories: And that until that matter be remedied, they can never expect to raise their heads above water.

Yea, I know some few Noble and worthy persons, who are of late become so very sensible of the truth of this matter, that (tho' some of them have even a particular interest in the exportation of Wool) they have, as it were, laid a voluntary prohibition on themselves; That is, they have generously resolved, and positively declared, that they will not wear any other Woollen-Cloaths, Wolsfed-Stockings &c. But what are, or shall be Manufactur'd within this Kingdom: And if the rest of our Nobility and Gentry should think fit to follow so noble and generous an Example, it would soon become a reproach to the middle and Inferior sort of People to do otherways; Our Manufactories would quickly look with an other kind of Face, than now they do; very considerable Sums of Money would be thereby kept within the Nation, that are now unnecessarily carried out for Forreign Manufactures; and industrious People would be of course encouraged to set the Poor at Work, both in City and Country.

Yet still (I confess) I am afraid that this matter will go but very faintly on, without the Government think fit to interpose their Authority likewise with relation thereunto: For many of our People both Men and Women; especially the younger sort, are become so intolerably Fond of, and intoxicated with, all the fantastical Fashions and frantick Fopperies of those who dwell a great deal nearer the Sun than we do, and which (I may say) Nature never intended for our Climate, yea and of any gaudy Bawble whatsoever that carries but the name of *English* or *French Goods*, that even some publick Act seems, in some measure, necessary for the restraint of all or most of those Forreign Manufactures; If we have a mind that our own Manufactories should, in good earnest, ever come to any thing; or that our Poor should be employed to any tolerable measure either of Comfort to themselves, or of advantage to the Body of the Nation.

Some People may possibly object: Why all this mighty bustle about Prohibitions, Impositions &c? Let but those persons concern'd in our Home-Manufactories sell cheaper than we can buy Forreign-Manufactures for, and that will be an absolute prohibition of course; and until they do so, why should we be debarr'd the Priviledge of laying out our Money, where we can buy cheapest?

This truly at first view may seem to have some weight in it, tho' to any considering person, it's neither more nor less than a meer *Begging of the Question*; But whoever undertakes a Task of this Nature, must resolve to fight against Shaddows and Apparitions, and therefore I shall not grudge the trouble of blacking some more Paper to undeceive the Unthinking-Crow'd as to those Mis-conceptions that they may be possess'd off, from the amusements of a few Self-seeking and designing Persons.

'Tis an approved Maxim in all Governments whatsoever, That the privat Interest of this, that, or t'other particular person, yea, or of a great



many Individuals, must always yeild and give place to the common and publick Interest of the Common-wealth in general.

Now daily experience; That great Basser of Speculation, proves it too too possible, yea beyond all contradiction true, that several Merchants and others may carry on some Branches of Trade, either at home or abroad, very profitable to themselves, and yet extremely pernicious to the publick and general Interest of the Common-wealth: And this indeed is the plain case with relation to all our Woollen-Manufactures at present; for tho' some few Importers of Forreign-Manufactures and Exporters of our Wool may, and (without doubt) do, make considerable profit of their said Import and Export; yet it most evidently appears, from the several Arguments already adduced against such Importation and Exportation, that the Importer's and Exporter's gain must be vastly short of the inconceivable loss that the Body of the People do, and must still, suffer thereby, until some effectual stop be put thereto.

As to the foolish pretence of People's buying Forreign-Manufactures cheaper than they can our own; 'Tis, at best, but a very ill grounded Allegation; For 1<sup>mo</sup>. The Buyer must have a more than ordinary judgment to distinguish truly between Broad-cloath brought from *England*, and that which is Manufactur'd at *New-mills* or *Muscl-burgh*; And both the one, and the other, are so promiscuously sold in the Shops at *Edinburgh*, *Glasgow* &c. That few or none are at the pains of enquiring into the difference: and if they did, yet the Shop-keeper (to be sure) would not miss to call it such as he understood the Buyer had a mind it shou'd be: And this will generally hold with respect to the most part of Buyers and Sellers. 2<sup>do</sup>. Allowing that all Buyers were equally well skill'd in those matters, and that one may possibly buy *English* Cloath a Shilling or two in the Yard cheaper than he can *Scotch* Cloath of the same breadth, colour, and fineness; yet still this is but a meer fallacy and positive cheat upon our imaginations; For consider the consequence, will any man be so ridiculous as to infer from thence, that this Shilling or two, saved to this or that particular Buyer, can countervail the general and irretrievable loss, which the Nation must inevitably sustain by the export of the full price of that *English* Cloath in real Money, or good Bills of Exchange? which are all one upon the matter, tho' some are so stupidly ignorant as to make a difference: Whereas on the other hand, let the price of our own Manufactures be as dear as you please to call it, yet the Common-wealth can never be a loser thereby, whatever particular persons may pretend; for while not only the prime cost, but even the full value of those Manufactures, at the retailing rate, is kept within the Kingdom, it must necessarily circulate amongst all degrees of People, and create a briskness of Trade, both in City and Country; those concern'd in the several Manufactories wou'd be thereby enabled to keep their Credit and pay frankly, not only their Workmen, but also, for whatever they must necessarily have for carrying on their work; the poor would be profitably employ'd, and their own labour would maintain them a great deal better than those large Collections that are now daily made to keep them from starving; the Tennents would be better able to pay their Rents; and the Land-lords better able to pay their Debts to such Tradesmen and others as they have occasion to employ from time to time &c. 3<sup>tio</sup>.

Suppose

Suppose we should even restrict the consideration of this matter to the particular case of one private Buyer only ; I would gladly know whether what he saves by this supposed difference in the price of so much Cloath, as he may have occasion to use for his own person, will even discharge or re-imburse him of what he must necessarily contribute to, and be out of pocket upon, the Maintenance of the Poor; not only at the Church-doors, but also at home, in the Streets, on the High-ways, and, in a word, wherever he goes; (if he be not a person altogether void of the Powers of ordinary Compassion and Christian Charity) especially at such a Juncture as this, when in all our walks we can not shun meeting with innumerable Objects of our Pity, if we have any: Nor is this all the mischief that such a Buyer must expect to meet with, at one time or other, from the many other evil consequences that (no doubt, will be entail'd upon himself, not only as he is a Member of the Common-wealth that suffers by such practice, but even upon his progeny too for having, in a manner so grossly palpable, contributed, as much as in him lay, to the discouraging (I may say ruining) of those Manufactories that otherwise might, and (beyond all peradventure) would, employ and Maintain our Poor very comfortably, and would save even those Collections that are now necessary for their Maintenance. 4<sup>th</sup>. We have all the reason imaginable to believe (and for my own part, I positively do) that if our own Manufactories were duely encouraged from time to time, according to the different emergencies that may happen with relation thereunto, they would very quickly (without respect to the foregoing reasons) be both able and willing to sell considerably cheaper, than any Merchant can afford to import and sell any Foreign Manufactures of the same sort and fineness; For all Manufactories, like all other undertakings whatsoever, must expect to meet with the greatest difficulties in their beginnings; not only from outward accidents, but even from the nature of the thing it self; because first of all, they must necessarily bestow a great part of their substance upon Dead-stock (as they commonly call their Looms, Tools Work houses &c.) And if they happen to sell never so little of their Manufactures, they must unavoidably clappe even upon that little, the charge of all their Servants and Work-people, together with a certain proportion of the said Dead stock &c. unless they resolve to dwindle away, and exhaust their whole principal Stock, before they come to any tolerable consistency: But when once they attain to some certain measure of perfection, by a continued tract of experience, and are in full assurance of getting a ready vent and quick return for all that they can get wrought; they can not choose but sell the very same Cloath at a much cheaper rate, and yet be far greater gainers thereby, than when they sell but an unconsiderable quantity at an extravagant price; For (according to the common Aphorisms) *Many Littles makes a Mickle*; and *Light Gains makes a heavy Purse*.

Yet since Arguments from bare Speculation are seldom or never look'd upon to be so probative, at least not so convincing, as demonstrations founded upon positive matter of Fact, I shall adduce such known and undeniable instances thereof, as I reckon may lay all the dust that's raised upon this head.

The *Managers* or *Directors* of the Trade to *Africa* and the *Indies* having, (it seems) about a year or two ago, occasion for very considerable quantities



quantities of several sorts of Manufactures and of different kinds, fit for Plantations in *America*, to the value of about 20000 *lib. sterling*, And consulting about the most rational measures for procuring the said several quantities; Some proposed to give Commission for buying them in *England* or *Holland*, where they might be had ready made, from such as make it their daily business to provide and furnish such sort of Goods &c. But in short upon the result of their reasoning, they came (as I am certainly informed) to this positive and general Resolution, Not to buy a Groat's worth from Abroad of any sort of Goods that could possibly be got tolerably well Manufactur'd at home, even without respect to whatever difference might be in the price. 1. Because thereby they would keep so much Money still circulating within the Nation, that otherways would be carried out of it for those Goods. 2do. Because thereby they might employ and maintain many hundreds of poor Tradesmen and others in a time (I may say) of Dearth, who otherways would be reduced to great Extremities. 3tio. Because thereby they had the opportunity of introducing the making of several things here at home, that our Tradesmen were not in use to make formerly. 4to. Because by that means they'd put the Countrey in a condition of being tolerably well capable of serving their own then-intended-Colony for futurity, without running the hazard of lying at the mercy of their humourlome neighbours, for such goods as their plantations or settlements in *America* (if ever they have any) must necessarily require; and for the security of which they ought to make timely provision. 5to. Because they had very good reason to believe that whatever Goods could be got Manufactur'd here at home, might in a short time be got cheaper than they could buy the same Goods from abroad, especially considering the vast difference of the Exchange, the Commission that must be given to Foreign Correspondents, the Sea hazard in bringing those Goods from abroad, and the lowness of our own Journey-men's Wages at home.

In pursuance of which generous and discreet Resolution they made it their business, not only to buy the ordinary Manufactures of the Countrey, in considerable quantities, but also to procure choice patterns of such things as were not in use to be wrought here formerly; by which means they got many things done exactly to their mind, and at the same time, cheaper by much than what the Patterns cost them; all which being premised, leads me naturally to those instances which I promis'd to give of true matter of Fact: And I may, with the greater assurance, be allowed to be both the more positive and particular therein, as having had immediat Information thereof from the very Persons who first were, and still are, principally concerned. 1mo The said Company having occasion for a number of small Arms, in regard they intended to set out in time of War, and with intention likewise to make Merchandise of some part of those Arms in *America*, they issued forth publick Placais inviting all Guns-smiths and other Tradesmen to come and serve them, at such reasonable prices as should be condescended upon; and to try who would undertake to serve them cheapest; allowing also a competent time for making those Arms; with an offer to advance part of the value in hand, upon security to perform &c. Yet not one single person in the Kingdom (that I could hear of) could then be induced to undertake



undertake for any number of Buccaneer's Guns, (commonly so called, as being the Guns chiefly used in *America*) under 25 *shill. sterl. per piece* at least: Nor indeed did the Company pay one farthing less for the first parcel that was made for their use: But after that experience, and a continued practice had made the making of those Guns more easy and habitual to the Work-men, and that the Undertakers begun to taste the sweet of a constant Employment for some certain time, and that when their Work was done, they had it immediatly taken off their hands, and ready payment for the same, they soon became sensible of the profit of a quick return, and entred into Contracts, to furnish near about two thousand of these Guns at 20 *shillings sterl. per piece*, and perform'd accordingly to their own, and the Company's satisfaction. And what is still more convincing, the same Undertakers or Trades-men that had at first 25. *shillings sterling* for every Gun, are at this very time making Guns answerable to the former in every respect for 15 *shillings sterling per piece*, and the said Undertakers do ingenuously acknowledge that, for the reasons already recited, they hope to have more profit upon these Guns at 15 *shillings*, than upon the former at 20, or 25. *shillings*, tho' there be so a vast difference in the price. Nay farther these very Undertakers do frankly declare, that if the Company, or any other will encourage them with constant Employment for a certain time, and enable them to go on with their work by a moderat advance of some part of the price upon security, as at first, they will engage to furnish the same Guns considerably lower than the lowest price abovementioned. 2<sup>do</sup>. The said Company having occasion likewise for a certain number of such Pistols as are commonly used in *America*, the very same Tradesmen that had at first 20. *shillings sterl. per pair* for these Pistols, have for the reasons formerly mentioned, lower'd their price by degrees from 20 *shillings* to 19, from 19 to 17, from 17 to 15, from 15 to 13 *shillings* and *sixpence*; and now the Company, or any other, that will give the like encouragement may have as many of those Pistols made as they please, at 12 *shillings sterl. per pair*, equal at least in all respects to, if not better than, those that at first cost 20 *shillings sterl.* 3<sup>io</sup>. The said Company having occasion likewise for a considerable number of Cutlasses or Shables, the cheapest they could buy at first was at 7 *shillings sterl. each*; yet in process of time, they had, them from the same Work-men at 3 *shillings* and *sixpence*; and I have now very good reason to believe, that Shables full as good as those, may be had from the very same hands, somewhat cheaper still. 4<sup>to</sup>. The said Company having occasion for some few Thousands of such Patrantashes as are used in *America* (being commonly a nest of Cartouch-Boxes, made of one entire piece of Wood, covered over with strong stiffen'd Leather; the Leather and the Seams thereof being well waxed, so as to keep out Rain &c.) The first undertakers had 3 *shillings* a piece for some few of them, but upon further tryal, the very same persons, and others too, lower'd the price from 3 *shillings* to 2. from 2 to 18 *pence*; and at last some Trades-men at *Glasgow* furnish'd them by the same Pattern with Belts &c. at 16. *pence per piece*.

It would be almost an endless labour to enumerate all the instances of this kind that could be given: For upon the whole matter, let any Man pretend what he will, there is nothing made with hands, But what

the Artificer may, And (if he be not a Fool ) will, in process of time, and upon reasonable encouragement given, afford considerably cheaper than at the first undertaking. And why the Encouragements now proposed may not, in some reasonable degree, have the same effect upon our Woollen-Manufactures, I challenge any Man to give a substantial Reason: Nor indeed can I foresee so much as the shadow of any Reason that can be pretended; unless it be suggested, that when once we are by Law debarr'd the privilege of Buying or Wearing Foreign Manufactures, then the Proprietors of our own Manufactories may impose upon us what price they please: Now allowing that they should do so (which is the worst that can be supposed) Yet the fallacy of that imaginary evil is sufficiently obviated already: And indeed the suggestion is so very wild and un-supposable, that I can never suffer my self to believe that such reasonable Men, as I presume the Masters and Managers of those Manufactories are, can ever be guilty of taking measures so ridiculously inconsistent with the Rules of Common Prudence and Self-Interest, as this suggestion must infer: Nor can they be so stupidly Ignorant, but to know that the same Legislative-Power from whom they are to expect those Encouragements, may abrogate the same at pleasure; If they should be discovered to abuse those favours, so grossly as this suggestion doth suppose. Yea moreover 'tis most certain, that if due care were taken to give the necessary Encouragements to our Woollen-Manufactories, from time to time, according to the different emergencies of time, so as to make the Profits and Advantages accruing to the several Proprietors of those Manufactories already erected, appear evident; Then other Manufactories of the same kinds, would quickly be erected: For there can never be penury of Undertakers where there is a visible advantage and prospect of gain to be had. And, in process of time, those several Manufactories must of course, out of rivalry and emulation of gain, endeavour to out-bid one another; and must undoubtedly beat down one another's Prices, so as that the Nation can never be imposed upon in that point.

Now after all, tho' true it be, that the keeping of so much Money within the Kingdom, as is yearly exported for Foreign Manufactures, would be of considerable advantage to a Nation of so little Stock and Trade as ours is; Yet, at the same time, I must confess, that unless care be taken likewise to extend and improve our Foreign-Trade, by Exporting of our Native Productions and Manufactures somewhere; our bare Home-consumption of those Manufactures can never be of that extent or value as to make our Manufactories very considerable. Nor indeed can I see, on the other hand, how we can well carry on, and support, a considerable Foreign-Trade, without large Encouragements to our Manufactories at home; Both these having such a mutual dependence one upon the other; that, like the two chief wheels of a Watch, if the one be broke, the other must also stop of course: For as we can have no considerable vent for our Manufactures, but by Foreign Trade; so we can have no Gold or Silver, or indeed any other valuable Commodity (got by Foreign Trade only) without having always a considerable Stock of Native Productions and Manufactures to give in barter for the same.

The



The consideration of all which, makes me still account it no small piece of foresight and prudence in the Directors of the Trade to *Africa* and the *Indies*, to have begun so early as they did, to encourage all sorts of Trades men and Artificers within the Kingdom, whose Work and Manufactures, that Honourable Company must, in a short time, have occasion for, and that too, in very considerable quantities, if their undertaking prove successful; As I hope, and heartily wish it may.

And the many other advantages that must arise from that Company's Success, are of so diffusive a nature, and so far from being possibly confined to the immediat Adventurers alone, that there cannot be scarce any one considering person, of what degree, quality, or occupation soever, in the whole Kingdom (if not wilfully blind) but who must in some measure, see and partake of those common advantages: Yea I verily believe that some or other of every Handy-craft-trade in the Kingdom have even already been employed more or less in their respective Callings about the fitting out of the Ships, Cargo's, Stores, Provisions, Arms, and many other necessities that were sent away upon their first expedition: And this (among several others) is one just reason, why indeed all judicious and good Men, who are Lovers of their Country (whether concerned immediatly in that Company's Stock or not) do so earnestly wish its prosperity, both in their publick and privat Prayers; as believing it to be (if I may guess at their Minds) the only means now left, under GOD'S unsearchable Wisdom and Providence, for restoring this poor despirited Nation to any thing of its wonted Glory, and for preserving it from that Bondage, with which our powerful Neighbours seem to have often threatned us, during these three or four last Reigns: Nor can it be denyed, but that they have by degrees, in that short time, made a far greater progress in compassing their ends, under the pretence and colour of freindship, than they could ever have done before, in many Ages, when at the common opinion.

I must indeed acknowledge, that there is no People or Constitution of Government upon Earth, for whom I bear a greater esteem than for that of *England*, with all their faults and defects, as I know they want not some; (by their Government, I mean chiefly the Constitution of their Parliaments) Nor is there any other Nation with whom I would so gladly have this Kingdom united in Bonds of entire Love, and inviolable Friendship: And if ever I were to renounce the Interest of my Native Country, I should certainly betake me to that of *England*, and declare my self an *English-man*: For how haughty, boisterous or slighting soever, many of them may seem to be, to the generality of Strangers; whatever different Opinions they may have among themselves concerning this, that, or t'other Form of Government; whatever differences or private Animolities some of the most Zealous and bigotted Professors of the several different Religions among them may happen, for their own different ends, to foment in the minds of their several Disciples; and how far soever Corruption may, now and then, creep into the Administration of their publick Affairs; (from which Evil they are not altogether exempted, no more than some of their Neighbours) Yet still (I must say) I have, upon all Emergencies whatsoever, observed such a Noble (I had almost said Peculiar) frankness of temper, firmness and constancy of Resolution, and



and undaunted Courage in the Main-body of that Nation, for rectifying all publick Male-Adminiftrations of any kind, that they commonly lay aside all other confiderations whatfoever, to fupport and maintain their natural and lawful Rights (very emphatically comprehended in that of *Liberty and Property*) at the outmoft of perils, againft all Forreign and Domestick Invaders of the fame: And this indeed is the true Reason, why of all People Living, I fhould covet their Freindship moft, and, upon equal terms, to be one undiftinguifh'd People with them. But 'tis a common and true faying, That *Gold it felf may be bought too dear*: For if their Freindship be not to be purchafed otherways than by an absolute furrender of our Independency; And if they think that none other of the Britifh Monarchy fhould live in a ftate of Liberty, or enjoy any fhare of the common advantages of Forreign-Trade or Home-Manufactories, but themfelves; I fhall humbly beg leave to declare my felf fo far, as to bequeath my Malediction (if it were at my dying minute) to any of my Kindred, Friends, or Allies, or any other *Scotch-man* whatfoever, who fhall ever yeild or confent to clofe with them upon any fuch terms.

Let us but reflect a little upon the Reasons, why our Anceftors Names are fo Honourably Recorded, both by our own and Forreign Historians Was it not for having at all times, in all Ages, and at all Perils, nobly maintained that Liberty and Independency of which I now treat? Yes certainly: And muft this then be the fatal period of time, wherein we are to be Chronicled for being fo tamely the fervile Instruments of putting an end to our fo much once boasted-of Liberty? No, *GOD forbid*.

And in reflecting upon the many noble and brave Actions of our renown'd Anceftors, I cannot forbear to give a little hint of that notable and famous Letter fent in the year 1320 to Pope *John*, under the hands and Seals of our Nobility, in name of themfelves, and the other Barons, and Free-holders, with their Vallals, and all the Inhabitants of this Kingdom: Wherein after having expoftulated about the many Abufes and Acts of Violence committed againft them by the *Englifh*, as being the occafion of the War that was then between the Two Nations, they exprefs themfelves in the following words. *A quibus malis innumeris, ipfo juvante, qui poft vulnera medetur & sanat, liberati fumus per Sereniffimum Principem, Regem & Dominum noſtrum, Dominum Robertum, qui pro populo & Hereditate ſuis, de manibus Inimicorum liberandis, quaſi alter Maccabæus, aut Joſue, labores & tadia, inediaſ & pericula, tato ſuſtinuit animo: Quem etiam Divina Diſpoſitio, & juxta Leges & Conſuetudines noſtras, quas uſque ad mortem ſuſtinere volumus, Juris ſucceſſio, & debitus noſtrorum omnium Conſenſus & Aſſenſus, noſtrum fecerunt Principem atque Regem: Cui, tanquam illi, per quem ſalus in Populo facta eſt, pro noſtra Libertate tuenda, tam Jure quam Meritis tenemur, & volumus in omnibus adharere: Quem ſi ab inceptis deſiſtet (Regi Anglorum aut Anglicis nos aut Regnum noſtrum volens ſubjicere) tanquam Inimicum noſtrum, & ſui noſtrique Juris ſubverſorem, ſtatim expellere niteremur; & alium Regem noſtrum, qui ad deſenſionem noſtram ſufficiet, faciemus: Quia quamdiu Centum vivi remaſerint, nunquam Anglorum Dominio aliquatenus volumus ſubjugari: Non enim propter Gloriam, Divitias aut Honores pugnamus, ſed propter Libertatem ſolummodo, quam nemo bonus niſi ſimul cum vita amittit. &c.*

Here

Here any one may see, throughout the whole strain of this Letter, a most lively representation of Heroick Virtue and Magnanimity of Spirit, equal to any thing that ever was pled in the Roman Senate, in behalf of *Liberty*: For, amongst many other notable Declarations, They positively Declare, *That so long as a hundred Scotch-men remain'd alive, they never would, upon any account whatsoever, submit themselves to the Yoke or Dominion of the English; and withall, that they fought not for Glory, Riches or Honour, but for Liberty only; which (say they) no good Man will part with sooner than with his Life.*

There are several Authentick Copies of this Letter yet extant, not only in privat hands, but in publick Registers also; and may be seen at large in Sir *George Mackenzie's* Treatise of *Precedency*, prefix'd to that of his *Herauldry*: It was dated at the Abbacy of *Aberbrothock*, the 6<sup>th</sup> Day of *April*, in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the Reign of their then worthy and most valiant Sovereign, King *ROBERT the BRUCE*; and in the year of our LORD GOD 1320.

Then it was that *Scotland* had a name, and weighed more than its apparent proportion in the Ballance of *Europe*, when even the most Potent of its Neighbouring Princes and States courted its Freindship and Alliance, by sending Pompous and Expensive Embassies hither for that effect: *France* could in those former Ages find its account in Bribing our Freindship, by a general Act of Naturalization in our favours; Adopting at one dash, all this Kingdom, to all the priviledges of its own Natives, (a favour never before, nor since, granted to any other Nation) making the Sons of our Nobility sometimes Constables, and sometimes Marshalls of *France*: Yea our Noble Family of *Douglas* alone, produced more Chief-Generals in Forreign parts than any three of the most renoun'd Families of Ancient *Rome*; Nor was that proud City exempted from the terror of bowing under some of them. And even within these 150 Years last past, the Emperour *Charles the V*, in the very zenith of his Glory, had such an opinion of the Valour and Power of the *Scots*, (tho', at that time, they wanted a Head, it being in the Infancy of *Queen Mary*, who was then but Eight years Old) that in a Letter from *Flanders* to his Council of State in *Spain*, he thanked GOD, that he had at last concluded a Peace with the *Scots*, and could thereby be at the more freedom to prosecute his other designs &c. And it is very observable that, during that Treaty of Peace, the only Article that seem'd to obstruct it was, that the People of *Flanders* and *Holland* insisted upon, having Restitution made to them of all the Ships that the *Scots* had taken from them during the War, which (as *Lestly* Writes) were very many: To which the Lord *Erskine* and *Henry Sinclore* Dean of *Glasgow*, and one of the Senators of our Colledge of Justice, being Plenipotentiaries for *Scotland*, would by no means yeild; in respect that the former, together with the *Portuguize*, were the first Aggressors, in having, in time of Peace, violently seized and detain'd several Merchant-Ships belonging to *Scotland*, which was the occasion of the War; and that what the *Scots* did, was only by way of Reprital: So that at last they past from any further insisting upon the said Restitution, and concluded the Peace without it.

Good GOD! What a Generation of Pigmies are we now dwindled into? How far are we degenerated from that Virtue and greatness of



Soul, for which your Ancestors Names are so honourably Recorded in the Annals of Fame? How little do most part of the Inheritors of their Possessions study to inherit their Virtue and Merit? For really to see but a just comparison run between the Nobility of those former Ages, and some of their present Lineal Successors, were enough to make any thinking Man have very odd conceptions concerning *Pythagoras's* opinion about the Transmigration of Souls. It looks almost like a Dream (considering our present State) when we read in Story, how that for a course of many years together, we actually maintain'd a War at Sea, against *Portugal, Holland* and *Flanders* to advantage; in so much that *Andrew Barton* Commander of one of our Ships, scouring along the *Dutch Coast* in the beginning of that War, had taken an incredible number of the Enemy's Privateering Ships, and made such a slaughter amongst them that (as *Bishop Lesly* writes) he sent home many Barrels full of their Heads as a Present to King *James* the 4<sup>th</sup>. his then Sovereign. And even about the time that King *James* the 6<sup>th</sup> went first into *England*, 'tis said, that (besides small craft) we had Fifteen of as tall Ships as any that were then in *Europe*. Nor will this seem incredible to any that will but consider what a vast improvement *England, Holland* and *France* have made in Shipping since that time, while we have been going backward, still more and more, and that (I may freely venture to say) chiefly, if not only, by reason of our Shamm-Union with *England* in the year 1603. Yea, Sir *Josiah Child*, in one of his *Discourses* upon Trade is so ingenuous, as to declare, that an Ancient Gentleman of his Acquaintance remembered the time, when there were but Three Merchant-ships in all *England* of 300 Tuns burden each, or upwards.

I confess it is no desirable wish to be in a state of War with any Nation, and much less with so near and powerful a Neighbour as *England* is to us; and may I never live to see a Rupture between Two Nations whose Interest ought, indeed, for the good of both, to be considered as one, if the Wisdom of both should think fit to unite upon equal conditions, which I have often wish'd, as believing that to be the only means by which both the one and the other can secure to themselves a lasting Happiness and Safety, against all Foreign Powers, and intestine Divisions. But since all parties are not as yet agreed about that matter, I shall beg leave here to observe, what is indeed already but too well known to every thinking *Scotchman*, that *England* has at all times got, and still must get, infinitely by the Freindship of *Scotland*, beyond what *Scotland* ever got, or can reasonably expect, by that of *England*: And the *English* are so sensible of it, and of the evil consequences that would attend a Rupture with us, that I dare pawn my Life on't (if I had a thousand Lives in one) that the most considerate and thinking People among them, would rather break out with the most powerful Nation in *Europe*, than with us, who are upon the same Continent with them, and consequently the more dangerous Enemy; how big soever they may look, when they see how easily many of our leading Cards have been shuffled and packt at any Court-Game, turning up whatever they pleased to be Trump, in so much that I have often seen even the Spectators blush at it.

There are ways enough to maintain our Independency without running so fast upon the desperate remedy of a War, as some would foolishly,

foolishly, and others designedly, suggest to be the necessary consequence of standing our ground: Let but the great Council of the Nation, our Parliament, meet once a year, and be Triennially Elected, as in our Neighbour-Nation; Let there be some well digested Law made concerning the necessary qualifications of such as are to serve in Parliament, and the manner of their Election, so as to secure against those inconveniencies, that were so much complain'd of in *England*, during King *Charles* the II's long Parliament. Let them but begin every Session with the Redress of Greivances, and Enacting of good and wholesome Laws, for the security of *Liberty* and *Property*, and encouraging of Trade and Manufactories, before they hastily put their hands into their Neighbours Pockets; Let them have a strict eye upon the behaviour of all those in publick Trust; and whenever they find any one tripping, let him be very severely punished *in terrorem*, without respect of Persons; Let Persons of Merit and Integrity be duely rewarded, even by order of Parliament, for the encouragement of others to follow their virtuous Examples.

——— *Quis enim Virtutem amplectitur ipsam,  
Præmia si tollas?*

And when once those Rules are duely observ'd, and put in Execution, many other good ones must necessarily follow; and then not only will the People look with a wishing Eye upon the approaching of every new Session, instead of dreading it, as I have known them do, ever since I can remember; but (my life for it) our Neighbours of *England* also will be then so far from offering to encroach upon our Priviledges, that they'll quickly see, and find it their Interest to court our Freindship, as much as we now wish for theirs; tho', as matters have been mannaged for a course of many years past, they can think of nothing less than, by degrees, to drive us to the same state of Subservituey as they have *Ireland*, (a conquer'd Nation) at: which, I am sure, no true *Scotchman* that has any just notion of *Liberty*, and that is not blinded with a little Narrow-Soul'd, Mercenary, Selfish-principle, can think of, but with horror and indignation: Nor is it an unreasonable thought to suppose, that the chief reason why such strenuous Assertors of their *Liberty* as the *English* are, do not close with us, all this time, is because they may possibly be loath to endanger their own *Liberty*, by herding with people of such flexible, servile, and slavish tempers, as we may justly be branded with, for acquiescing so tamely to such treatment as we have frequently mett with. And lest that the hood-wink'd and deluded multitude should think that this is only talking at random, and without Book, I shall give some few instances of a great many Cases wherein the *English* have, under the shadow of the Shamm-Union abovemention'd, usurp'd the Priviledge of treating us even worse than if we had been a Conquer'd Province. 1. Their Men of War have, for a course of several years past, prefs'd our Seamen with a high hand wherever they mett with them, whether on Board of our own, or of Forreign Ships, under the notion of being (forsooth) Subjects to the King of *England*, tho' it be well known that we are not his Subjects as such, but only as he is King of *Scotland*; and tho', at the very same time, they take special care to treat us, at the Custom-house, and upon the Exchange of *London*, and in their Plantations, not only as Forreigners,

but



but that too, with a particular mark of distinction; yea in their very publick Acts. However, Mum for that, *Manet alta mente repositum*, and as every Dog has his Day; So the next ensuing Century may possibly produce Effects which may perhaps convince our Neighbours, that they are not altogether infallible in their Politicks. 2do. They have, during the last War, not only taken and made prize of several of our Ships coming from France with Wine, which I shall not insist upon, but have also presumptuously taken upon them to Judge and Condemn, at the Old-baillie, some of our Country-men, taken on board of those Ships, as if they had been Subjects of England; tho', beyond all peradventure, how guilty soever, they ought to be tryed in Scotland only, and that by the Law of their own Country, especially since it was manifest, that they were no Residenters in England, nor so much as touch'd in it since the War, until they were dragg'd into it by force. 3tio. They have also, during the last War, (contrary to all Law and Right Reason) violently taken and made prize of some Ships, even out of our very Rivers and Harbours; and when, upon Complaint thereof to the Privy Council here, they had taken course therein, and written a discreet Letter to the Admiralty of England, Expostulating about that matter, and signifying that any Prize challenged within our own Rivers and Harbours, fell properly under the cognifance of our own Admiralty only; The Admiralty of England (as I am inform'd) were so civil (forsooth) as to return a Bantering, Galliarding Answer, with these and such like Expressions: *That they knew no such Town as the Town of Eli in Scotland; They knew no such thing as a Scotch Admiralty &c.* There was Impudence with a Witness. 4to. When upon the Faith of an Act of our Parliament, pass'd with as much deliberation, Solemnity and Unanimous a Suffrage, as perhaps any Act that pass'd in Scotland since the memory of Man, together with His Majesties Letters patent under the Great Seal of this Kingdom Pursuant therunto, for Establishing our Indian and African Company, the said Company sent certain Deputies and Commissioners to *Hamburgh*, to Negotiate their Affairs there, and to enter into Contracts, and particular Treaties of Trade, with several Inhabitants of that City; Sir Paul Rycant the English Resident there, as also Mr. Cresset Envoy Extraordinary at the Courts of *Lunenburgh*, and Plenipotentiary from England at the Treaty of *Pinenberg*, gave in a Joint-Memorial to the Senate of the said City, not only disowning the Authority of the said Act of Parliament and Letters Patent, but also threatening both Senate and Inhabitants, with the Kings outmost displeasure, if they should countenance or join with our Nation in any Treaty of Trade or Commerce. These are but some of many more instances that could be given of our Neighbours encroaching daily, more and more, upon the Priviledges and Independency of this Kingdom; and may justly be quoted, 40 or 50 Years hence, as other kind of precedents to prove their Superiority over us, than the fabulous and groundless Allegations of some of their Historians, *That the Kings of Scotland were (forsooth) Homagers to those of England.* These are all Matters of Fact done openly and above board, and our publick Ministers were (as I am credibly inform'd) made acquainted with them. However all that I shall say to the matter is, that it shall be a part of my Litany as long as I live: *From all such Ministers and Guardians of our Laws and Liberties, as can contentedly receive their Pensions,*

*This paper when the length in y<sup>e</sup> press was stopped by y<sup>e</sup> Government & suppressed*

